

**Arizona Department of Health Services
Tribal Leaders Roundtable/Summit Update Report
5-04-07**

Office of the Director

Under the leadership of Director Susan Gerard, the Arizona Department of Health Services continues to strengthen its relationships with Arizona's Native American communities. The Department is supporting and expanding critical programs serving Arizona Tribes, developing intergovernmental agreements specific to local Tribal communities, and bringing together Tribal leaders and resources to address priority Tribal health concerns. The following report reflects the funding and successful implementation of efforts to assist Native Americans across Arizona.

Native American Liaison

Michael Allison, Native American Liaison, continued active relationship with the Native American health care community to enhance overall working relationships and service delivery. His highlighted updated activities include:

- Working with the Arizona Dental Association on their new Community Dental Health Coordinator program.
- Assisting the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs in planning and participating in the state legislature's Indian Nations and Tribes Day held on 1-16-07.
- Attending Advisory Council on Indian Health Care meetings held on 1-29-07, 3-06-7, and 4-12-07.
- Participating in the planning committee for the upcoming Phoenix IHS Area Office 2007 Health Summit on Methamphetamine to be held on 7/24-26/07.
- Attending the Northern Tribes Bio-terrorism and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference held on 2/12-15/07.
- Coordinated a quarterly ADHS/IHS Directors meeting, held on 2/16/07.
- Assisted in coordination of STD information being provided to the Tohono O'dham Nation.
- Participating in multi-state agencies concept planning meetings for potential development of a state legislative funding appropriation for on-reservation medical and behavioral health facilities construction.
- Attending and presenting at the ITCA sponsored cancer Spiritual Care conference held on 3/07-08/07.
- Attending a Commission of Indian Affairs meeting held on 4/12/07.
- Attending an on-site meeting in Tuba City with San Juan Southern Paiute tribal officials and state of Arizona Tribal Liaisons held on 4-13-07.

Division of Behavioral Health Services

The Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) maintains intergovernmental agreements with four tribal nations, which includes Gila River Indian Community, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Navajo Nation and the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The Division of Behavioral Health Services has been planning for the 2007 Administrative Review of Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. Staff will be coordinating with TRBHAs on scheduling of the review and site visits.

Addressing Alcohol Abuse and Methamphetamine on Reservations: ADHS awarded \$1,003,448 for substance abuse detoxification capacity-building projects with significant impact for Arizona's tribes in November 2006. The funds were made available through the creation of the Addiction Reduction and Recovery Fund during the 2006 legislative session.

- In addition to the Holbrook/Dilkcon Detox Center and Gila River Indian Community projects, there are also projects in Yuma, Globe and Payson. While these were not projects on reservation land, Crossroads Mission and Community Bridges, our partners in the three projects, have committed to conduct outreach to find ways of offering the facilities' services to tribes near those areas.
- The Division has formed an internal Oversight Implementation Team composed of representatives from Financial Services, Compliance and Clinical and Recovery Services to provide on-going technical assistance to each infrastructure project as construction plans are implemented. The Team includes the Office of Behavioral Health Licensure on an as needed basis to review architectural plans and remove barriers to rapid start-up of the new facilities and programs.

Methamphetamine Center of Excellence: The Gila River Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority is home to one of three Methamphetamine Centers of Excellence in the state.

- The program provides intensive treatment and support to overcome methamphetamine addiction, within the cultural framework of the Gila River tribal community and is well received by the community and the participants continue to be successful in maintaining their sobriety as well as improving their life skills for better outcomes in other areas of their lives.
- It continues to maintain its unique cultural context by addressing critical issues prevalent in tribal communities; suicide being one such issue. The safety and support the women in the treatment group provide to one another has assisted the women in increasing their own coping skills as well as improving their abilities to reach out to their community members who are in pain. Additionally, many of the women in the treatment group

have been empowered to share their experiences with others at area conferences.

- The comprehensive program continues to see successes in increased number of family reunifications, maintained sobriety, and increased employment opportunities.
- Gila River TRBHA recently received a van which will increase outreach and improve access to off site support meeting for the treatment group participants.

Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force: Data and feedback from the January 2007 summit participants was used to craft a statewide strategic plan for addressing methamphetamine issues with a focus on state-level collaboration and community-level grassroots solutions. The Plan, due for release in May 2007, includes specific strategies to address methamphetamine impacts in rural and tribal communities in the areas of prevention, treatment and interdiction/law enforcement.

Tribal Coordination with the RBHA: Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority has continued to meet with tribal representatives to design the Third Annual EMBRACE Life Summit, which will take place in the fall of 2007. NARBHA will not be implementing a teen institute this summer, but will continue planning for this event for the following year.

DHS Annual Suicide Prevention Conference: ADHS is planning the second annual Suicide Prevention Conference. A special break-out session entitled Rez-Life and Prevention Programs at Work on Indian Reservations focus on the unique features of suicide prevention programming on reservation lands. The conference will take place in October 25 and 26 2007 in Tucson. Breakout sessions will address a variety of issues including suicide among Native American youths. The Suicide Prevention Native American committee has merged with the Adolescent Substance Abuse Native American Committee.

Native American Prevention Subcommittee: Empact Suicide Prevention Center continued to provide Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for adults in the Gila River Indian Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community. Empact implemented screening for suicidal ideation using the Teen Screen instrument with youth in Sacaton and Maricopa. Screening resulted in identification of many youths who were actively suicidal and referrals into treatment services. All screenings were conducted with active parent or guardian consent. The Community Partnership of Southern Arizona provided Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for adults in Bylas in April 2007.

The Child-Adolescent State Incentive Grant is providing funding for 5 youths and staff from the Pascua Yaqui tribe to participate in the state Underage Drinking conference scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2007. ADHS is providing the Pascua Yaqui tribe with mini grants to purchase curriculum materials for suicide prevention and

reimbursement for developing screening for suicide among youths. Eleven staff and tribal members from Pascua Yaqui, Tohono O'Odham, Gila River Indian Community and northern Arizona will be participating in the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training in June, 2007. ADHS staff provided cultural competency and Skills for Effective Prevention training at the Navajo Nation. Two Navajo Nation staff members participated in the Cultural Competency Training for Trainers offered in March 2007.

State Infrastructure Grant Funds (SIG): The SIG grant supports efforts in the behavioral health system to transform the children's system. The grant:

- Funds a .5 FTE CFT coaches' position for Pascua Yaqui tribe.
- Continues to provide financial support to ongoing CFT coaching and mentoring efforts for Gila River tribe.
- Allows participation and attendance from the Pascua Yaqui tribe at the "Meet me where I am" campaign meeting.
- Sponsored 5 youths from the Pascua Yaqui tribe to attend the Underage Drinking Prevention Conference.
- Funds youth group development for all T/RBHA's (e.g. supports the youth at the Advisory Board meetings- a youth voice development initiative of Pascua Yaqui tribe).
- Continues to provide financial support to the Gila Rivers and Pascua Yaqui Tribes efforts to setup teleconferencing in their region.

Substance Abuse Coordination Grant (SAC) – Native American Strategic Planning Workgroup: DBHS SAC staff continues to host these planning sessions on a monthly basis. Facilitation of this workgroup is done by the SAC Manager with co-facilitation by DBHS Native American staff or members from the Native American community. The program is currently awaiting approval of SAC funding for portions of the White Bison Wellbriety Training Program as well as the Arizona Native Connections' Circle of Strength Training Program. With the approval of the funding, the program will build capacity and infrastructure in tribal communities throughout the state. The Native American Strategic Planning group expanded the workgroup to include DBHS' Arizona Suicide Prevention Coalition's Native American Committee, thus expanding the scope of the workgroup beyond the adolescent substance abuse focus.

Housing and Housing Related Services for Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses: ADHS/DBHS awarded Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities with State Housing dollars, to purchase, rent, or lease affordable housing for adults with serious mental illnesses in operation. \$60,000 was allocated in fiscal year 2007 - \$20,000 per T/RBHA. Each T/RBHA established an Eviction Prevention and Move-In Assistance Program to prevent members from being evicted from housing and becoming homeless and a Move-In Assistance Program to assist consumers in moving into safe and affordable housing. T/RBHA's housing dollars were used to:

- Provide safe, decent and affordable housing off and on tribal nations to house tribal members enrolled in the T/RBHA with rent subsidy for up to six months, while recovering from their mental illness.
- Serve clients with serious mental illnesses, substance abuse issues and/or co-occurring disorders.
- To assist 21 consumers with permanent housing units in scattered sites and project-based housing on and off the reservations.

Division of Public Health Services

Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Nutrition

Arizona Nutrition Network: Eight schools on the Tohono O'odham Nation and Gila River Indian Community received nutrition education resources for January, February and March, 2007. The materials included posters for each month. The school nurses received pamphlets, "Twenty five Healthy Snacks for Kids", and approximately 2,000 incentive items for students were distributed each month. These included pens, cups and rulers with messages about fruits and vegetables. Parent items were also distributed each month, including pamphlets and fact sheets.

Comprehensive Cancer Program: The Gila River Health Care Corporation is the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. The award was granted March 28, 2007 and will be completed by December 31, 2007. The project addresses Objective 3.2 of the Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan – increase access to quality information and patient navigation sites across the state and identify barriers to access. This information shall be accomplished through the already established navigation activities. It is the programmatic objective of the Corporation to expand patient navigation by adding more staff to meet Community need for advocacy and supportive services. This project shall concurrently address Objective 5.2 of the Arizona Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan – establish a clearinghouse/database for cancer researchers to access and use in Arizona. The first step toward addressing this objective shall be surveying the need of the community.

Arizona Diabetes Program (formerly called Diabetes Prevention and Control Program): The ADP, with funds provided by the state legislative body, funded two programs that serve Native Americans. Phoenix Indian Medical Center will use the funds to produce a video that will help patients with diabetes who are not able to ambulate to be physical active, it will focus on chair exercises. The Guadalupe Diabetes Committee serving a predominantly Pascua Yaqui and Latino/Hispanic population will offer diabetes self management presentations throughout the various agencies in the Town of Guadalupe. Program staff served on the Cultural Diversity Committee for the American Diabetes Association Diabetes Expo annual event held March 31, 2007. The ADP provides technical assistance and

resource information to the Diabetes Program staff from Sage Memorial Hospital, which is a health facility on the Navajo reservation. Staff from Sage Memorial Hospital are active members of the Arizona Diabetes Coalition. In March 2007 the ADP sponsored the Arizona Community Health Outreach Workers Meeting/Training Conference (AZCHOW). The training was on various diabetes related topics: diabetes and depression, diabetes and oral health and obesity and diabetes. Diabetes Coordinators and Community Health Representatives attended from the following Tribes: Fort Mc Dowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi, Pascua Yaqui and White Mountain Apache.

Steps To A Healthier Arizona (Steps) Initiative: The Steps Initiative coordinated the planning process for the Arizona Policy Training Institute (AzPTI) that took place in Phoenix on April 11-12, 2007, which was sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), in collaboration with the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA). The purpose of this interactive training was to help participants understand the roles of changing organizational practices and policies in achieving norms change in communities. The AzPTI Planning Committee had representation from 15 different ADHS Offices and Programs, including the Native American Community Development Program. Outreach to tribal communities about the AzPTI included a presentation to the Native American Community Development Program Advisory Group, telephone contact, and electronic and non-electronic mailings of event promotional materials. Requests for AzPTI registration sponsorships were granted to all tribal applicants. Dr. Donald Warne was the AzPTI keynote speaker and addressed policy development from a tribal perspective. Mr. Fred Hubbard, Executive Director of the Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care, served as a co-facilitator for the American Indian breakout session, along with Kim Russell, ADHS Native American Community Development Program Manager. Herman Honanie, Director of Health Services for the Hopi Tribe presented on their tobacco use policy success story at this breakout session. Nearly 200 volunteer or non-profit health educators and community advocates, program staff, and clinicians from state, city, county and tribal entities, schools, and private organizations across the state participated in the AzPTI.

Well Woman HealthCheck Program (WWHP): The program finalized contracts with Phoenix Indian Medical Center and the Native American Community Health Center, Inc. to implement the Well Woman HealthCheck Program utilizing Proposition 303 funds for breast cancer screening and using existing program state funds to provide cervical cancer screening. Phoenix Indian Medical Center began screening women February 1, 2007 in their Women's Clinic and in its first month screened approximately 20 women. Since implementing the program two women have been linked to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, one with a diagnosis of breast cancer and one with a diagnosis of cervical cancer. The WWHP has allocated 100% of the \$250,000 to provide direct screening and diagnostic breast services and estimates it will be able to screen approximately 1,041 Native American women. Implementation meetings with the

Native American Community Health Center will resume once they have clinical staff in place to support the program. The WWHP is also partnering with both Hopi and Navajo Nation breast and cervical cancer programs to provide a case management conference scheduled for April 26th and April 27th in which 25 case managers from the state, Hopi, and Navajo breast and cervical cancer programs will participate.

Arizona State Hospital

Between January 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007, there were fourteen (14) patients at Arizona State Hospital admitted and treated from Arizona tribal communities. The most common diagnosis among Tribal members is Schizophrenic Disorders, with the second most common diagnostic category being Cognitive Disorders. Historical concern has been that tribal members have appropriate access to treatment in a timely manner at Arizona State Hospital. In examining historical data from January 2003 to present, the trend of number of admitted tribal members has steadily increased through this timeframe, indicating there is improved access to care at Arizona State Hospital.